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Boborykin and Konovalenko were little concerned over the tremendous shortcomings apparent in the plant's work. When in January it became clear that the plant was lagging, they continued to rest on past successes and gave this example to the other administrators. No one spoke seriously of the lag. The Zaporozh'ye oblast and city Party committees did not give the slightest aid to "Zaporozhstal'."

At present, with the signs of frost gone, there are no longer any of the so-called objective causes for failure to meet the plans of which the directors are so fond of complaining. All supplies are coming in regularly for continuous, uninterrupted operations. Still "Zaporozhstal'" fails to meet the plan. At no other metallurgical enterprise is there the poor coefficient for utilization of blast-furnace capacity as there is at "Zaporozhstal'." The production of steel per square meter of hearth is also low. As formerly, the plant, particularly the blast furnaces, continually disregards the correct technology of smelting. The initiative of leading workers and innovators is not strongly supported. In 1949, a movement of high-speed workers started here, but it has since been forgotten.

The achievements of the Ural blast-furnace worker Yevseyev in speeding the melt by higher temperature blasts is nothing new to the "Zaporozhstal'" workers, since they began to work at higher blast temperatures in 1948. They were able in this way to increase pig iron output and to decrease coke consumption, and in 1949 they made further progress in this direction. But now the plant has given up this valuable initiative.

The oblast and city Party committees have never taken serious measures to correct the situation, and have not questioned Boborykin about his failure to make good on his constant pledges to improve. On 14 April, he appeared at a conference of active Party members with descriptions of the successes at the plant. He has never been asked to make a clear explanation of the causes for his plant's lag. The so-called high-speed furnaces at the plant are still lagging now as they did in January.

Pravda Ukrainy, No 78, 1 Apr 50

The high-speed production drive, which has had such good results in the rolling shops of the "Zaporozhstal'" Plant, has not been maintained at a high level in the open-hearth and blast-furnace shops. A letter from a blast-furnace operator to the editor of the Zaporozh'ye Oblast newspaper bears this out. The letter states that the shop's work is extremely poor. Only 70 percent of the plan is being fulfilled and it is impossible to adopt the advanced methods for improving operational coefficients. The necessary conditions for highly-productive work are not available to the shop's workers. Party and trade-union workers are partially to blame for this indifference to leading work methods.

PLANTS PLEDGE STEPPED UP PRODUCTION, SAVINGS -- V Pomoshch' Profsoyuznomu Aktivu, Vol XI, No 8, Apr 50

Workers at the "Zaporozhstal'" Plant have pledged to increase the 1950 output of pig iron 45.3 percent over 1949, steel 47.4 percent, and rolled metal 17.8 percent, and to increase labor productivity by 24 percent. This will mean that the prewar level for labor productivity will be exceeded by 42.5 percent in 1950.

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Trud, No 111, 11 May 50

Following the appeal of leading steel enterprises for reduced production costs and greater savings, the open-hearth furnace operators at "Zaporozhstal'" have pledged to increase the run of furnaces with Dinas brick roofs to 200 melts between repairs, and of furnaces with chromomagnesite roofs to 300 melts. A leading worker, in pledging to increase the durability of the chromite roof to 300 melts, also has pledged to obtain 6 tons of steel per square meter of hearth.

Krasnaya Zvezda, No 93, 19 Apr 50

On 12 April, the Zaporozh'ye Refractories Plant completed the 4-month plan and since then has produced 480 tons of refractories above plan. The plant has pledged to produce 600 tons of refractories above plan for Dnepr region metallurgical plants by 1 May.

Pravda Ukrainy, No 108, 7 May 50

A leading steelworker at the Plant imeni Dzerzhinskiy recently obtained 8.68 tons of steel per square meter of hearth as compared with the norm of 7.3 tons.

Krasnaya Zvezda, No 119, 20 May 50

A new record for high-speed melts has been set in the first open-hearth shop of the Plant imeni Dzerzhinskiy. A steelworker completed a melt in 4 hours 30 minutes, more than 2 hours less than the schedule called for, and produced 8.5 tons of steel per square meter of hearth -- almost twice the progressive norm. In May, the first open-hearth shop workers have saved enough time on the schedule to complete 22 additional melts.

Trud, No 114, 14 May 50

Three brigades at open-hearth shop No 3 of the Plant imeni Petrovskiy have pledged to produce 6,000 tons of metal above plan for the year, including 1,000 tons from economized materials and fuel. In 10 days of May, the shop's workers smelted 1,182 tons of steel above plan, including 560 tons from saved pig iron, scrap, ore, and other materials. The record production for the 10 days was an average of 7.12 tons per square meter of hearth as compared with the pledged 6.5 tons.

Krasnaya Zvezda, No 116, 17 May 50

Every fifth ton of pipe produced in the welded pipe shop of the Dnepropetrovsk Plant imeni Lenin is above plan. The plant is exceeding the production indexes for the entire metallurgical cycle.

Trud, No 95, 21 Apr 50

In the open-hearth shop of the Dnepropetrovsk Metallurgical Plant imeni Lenin, loading the charge into cars is done by an electromagnet, and bridge cranes are used in clearing out the casting pit. In the sheet-rolling shop, all labor-consuming processes are mechanized. An electric car feeds the red-hot ingots to the mill stand and the hoist tables are mechanized. One leading worker recently produced as much rolled metal per shift as the entire shop rolled before the war. This plant was the first to start production of high-grade pipe for production of Soviet-made automobiles, combines, and direct-fired boilers.

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Trud, No 119, 20 May 50

For a long time, the work of rolling mill operators and their assistants in operating the machines of the continuous mill in the seamless pipe shop of the Plant imeni Lenin was done by hand. The assistant had to grasp the 50-kilogram ingot with tongs and draw it to the rolling mill. The operator then had to feed the ingot into the rollers by hand with a mandrel. Recently, plant engineers mechanized this entire process, increasing the capacity of the mill and releasing nine workers.

Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 97, 10 May 50

The "Azovstal'" Plant has started a competition to produce one above-plan melt every 10 days on saved time. At "Zaporozhstal'," where open-hearth furnaces No 4 and 5 have been smelting one additional melt every 10 days, the workers now have pledged one above-plan melt every 5-6 days on saved time.

Trud, No 116, 17 May 50

A new record has been set at "Azovstal'" in operating the large, tilting, open-hearth furnace No 4. A heavy-weight, high-speed melt was completed 3 hours ahead of schedule, and an output of almost 12 tons per square meter was obtained as compared with the progressive norm of 8.33 tons.

Komsomol'skaya Pravda, No 111, 11 May 50

Detailed automatization of basic production sectors has been completed at "Azovstal'." These sections have been equipped with hundreds of automatic instruments and installations which considerably lighten the work. All work of automatization was done by a shop especially set up in the plan for this purpose. Plant engineers devised a new method of automatizing the temperature control in the large, tilting, open-hearth furnace. The new method is particularly designed for high-speed smelting. Workers operating the furnace have been able to save an average of 11 kilograms of fuel per ton of smelted steel. The time length of the melt has been decreased more than one hour below the progressive norm.

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